

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
North Tonawanda, NY
August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



AS WE GATHER

When Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answers with the confession on which the Church stands: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." This faith is not the result of human wisdom or effort. It is revealed by the Father and centered entirely on Jesus.

Christ builds His Church upon this confession, and not even the gates of hell can overcome it. Though the world may change and earthly powers may rise and fall, the Church remains secure because her foundation is Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Son of God. With Peter and Christians of every generation, we confess Him as our Savior and receive the forgiveness and eternal life He gives.

Welcome to all of our Members, Guests, and Visitors today, if you are a visitor, please introduce yourself to the pastor after service in the Narthex. We here at St. Matthew pray that you enjoyed your time worshiping with us today.

Hymn of Invocation TLH 38 The Lord, My God, be Praised

Stand

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C *Amen.*

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C *who made heaven and earth.*

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C *and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.*

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C *Amen.*

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.
To you, O LORD, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me,
lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.
Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help,
when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.
Blessèd be the LORD!
For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.
The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.
The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

C *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.*

Kyrie

LSB 186

C *Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high:
C *and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have
mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C *And with thy spirit.*

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, You give Your children many blessings even though we are undeserving. In every trial and temptation grant us steadfast confidence in Your loving-kindness and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C *Amen.*

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

¹Thus says the LORD:

“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed. . . .

⁶“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”

⁸The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. . . .

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to

make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? . . .

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. ³²For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 15:21–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifteenth chapter.

C *Glory be to Thee, O Lord.*

²¹Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.” ²³But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.” ²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” ²⁶And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.” ²⁷She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their

masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C *Praise be to Thee, O Christ.*

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

Hymn of the Day TLH 354 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

☐ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy
Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with
Thy free spirit. Amen.*

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the unity of the Church and harmony among its members; and for our life together in worship, witness, prayer and service to those within and outside of the household of faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the homes of God's people, that He would keep them from all harm and danger; and that we may dwell together in peace under the protection of His holy angels, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the government and those who protect us, that they may keep justice and do righteousness, carrying out their duties in accord with God's will, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the sick and afflicted, those beset with grief and sorrow, pain and any trouble, especially those on our prayer list and those who we name before You now in our hearts and minds that the Lord would be pleased to answer their cries for the sake of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are about to receive Christ's body and blood from this altar, that these crumbs may strengthen us in faith and love, united with God and neighbor, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Church, that she may steadfastly proclaim the irrevocable gifts and calling of God; that the disobedient may receive mercy; and that those who hear may become branches grafted onto the true vine, Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Lord God, giver of all that is good, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your grace, that we may endure the changes and chances of this mortal life and be found worthy when our Savior comes to bring to completion all things; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C *And with thy spirit.*

P Lift up your hearts.

C *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C *It is meet and right so to do.*

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection

opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C *Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.*

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C *Amen.*

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C *O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Sit

Distribution TLH 307 Draw High and Take the Body of the Lord

Distribution Hymn

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast
prepared before the face of all people,*

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.*

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C *and His mercy endureth forever.*

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed
us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your
mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward
You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C *Amen.*

P The Lord be with you.
C *And with thy spirit.*

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.
C *Thanks be to God.*

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto
you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you
peace.

C *Amen, amen, amen.*

Hymn to Depart TLH 50 Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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